



*City of Bristol
School Readiness*

*INFORMATION TO ACCESS THIS
MEETING:*

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*ID: 92046208066
passcode: 355413*

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The regular Bristol School Readiness Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at 11:45 AM on Zoom.

1. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions
2. Consolidation of the Bristol Early Childhood Alliance and School Readiness Council
 - a. Breakout Groups to Start Strategic Planning – Vision, Goals and Strategies
 - b. Approve request to submit a Transition Grant to the Collective
3. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Regular Meeting - February 5, 2025
4. Committee Reports
 - a. Program Quality
 - b. Health
 - c. Governance
 - d. Community Outreach
 - e. Infant and Toddler
 - f. Transition to Kindergarten
5. City School Readiness and Child Day Care Liaison Report

- a. Office of Early Childhood Updates
 - b. Local Updates
 - i. Approve request to submit a Letter of Support for Family Resource Centers
 - 6. Quality Enhancement Report
 - 7. Monitoring Report
 - 8. Resignations
 - a. Kristina Tanguay, Bristol-Burlington Health District
 - 9. Appointments
 - a. Elizabeth McGuire, Bristol-Burlington Health District
 - 10. Old Business
 - 11. New Business
 - 12. Community Sharing
 - 13. Adjournment
 - 14. Next meeting date April 2, 2025
- PER ORDER OF THE CHAIRPERSON, Jillian Romann

**Bristol School Readiness Council
Regular Meeting
February 5, 2025**

The regular meeting of the School Readiness Council was held on January 8, 2025 on the Zoom Meeting Platform and called to order by Jillian Romann at 11:48 AM.

A recording of this meeting is at:

https://zoom.us/rec/share/8Gf_POI7tLuKgUfaSrkJN7YjDdy9UnCRypZY9M4daq061s3GMS6CwzVpp-_vaKuU.PWIkpoQ7yKIKuZ-j

Passcode: z4.ZYE5G

Present: Maegan Adams, Matt Baronowski, Cecilia Garay, Yesenia Fuentes, Michelle Herens, Donna Koser, Susan Adeife Lee, Amber Lipscomb, Alyssa McGhee, Brenda Moore, Valerie Pelletier, Jillian Romann, Erick Rosengren, Sarah Roy, Dina Schaffrick, Jennifer St. John, Valerie Toner

Absent: Wendy McGrath, Courtney Sugarman, Kristina Tanguay

Also Present: Stephanie Daniele, Sarah Ethier, Sandra Godin, Kate Kerchaert, Yolande Lazaruz-Guerrero, Manny Martinez, Aubrey Minkler, Laurie Nadeau, Tina Rodriguez, Kara Singleton

- **Welcome and Introductions**

- **Consolidation of the Bristol Early Childhood Alliance and School Readiness Council:**

- Rebranding:

- Sandra, the Bristol Early Childhood Alliance (BECA) Co-chair, updated the group on the re-brand process that began prior to the decision to consolidate into one Local Governance Partner (LGP).
 - The name that gathered the most votes by 54.5% in the December meeting was the "Bristol Early Childhood Collaborative". Discussion around other possible names from both SR and BECA members was opened.

- Bristol Early Childhood Alliance **7 out of 22 votes to = 31.8%**
 - Bristol Early Childhood Collaborative **12 out of 22 votes to = 54.5%**
 - Bristol Family and Community Partnership **1 out of 22 votes to = 4.5%**
 - Early Childhood Collaborative of Bristol **2 out of 22 votes to = 9.1%**
 - Other (Please post name suggestion in the next session) **0 out of 22 votes to = 0%**

- Approval of new consolidated name, Bristol Early Childhood Collaborative:

- ***Motion by School Readiness Council member Michelle Herens and seconded by Sarah Roy, it was a unanimous vote by School Readiness Council and Bristol Early Childhood Alliance members to approve the new name, Bristol Early Childhood Collaborative.***

- **Approval of School Readiness Council Meeting Minutes held January 8, 2025 and January 22, 2025:**
 - ***Motion by School Readiness Council member Amber Lipscomb and seconded by Brenda Moore, it was a unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the regular School Readiness Council Minutes held January 8, 2025, and the Special School Readiness Council Minutes held January 22, 2025.***
- **Committee Updates**
 - Program Quality – Michelle Fangiullo
 - Committee selected new chair – thank you, Renee Dailey
 - Discussed enrollment updates
 - Discussed RFA process and Family Fee Replacement funding
 - Discussed BECA/School Readiness consolidation
 - Shared CT Early Childhood Alliance Policy Agenda: <https://www.cteca.org/policy>
 - Next meeting is February 11 at 10:00 at Edgewood Pre-K Academy and on Zoom
 - Health Committee – Kristina Tanguay
 - Donna updated committee about BECA/School Readiness consolidation
 - Debriefed Zoom class for parents held December 11 about respiratory illness
 - Resources shared regarding dental health for young children from BBHD dental hygienist
 - A google doc for Wellness Wednesday was shared for committee to add items
 - The Health Committee will be discussing goals using the following google doc: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1L0JELN9PGEfYPoCvnP8u9qrmsseOCCguljUbXc7BqlM/edit?usp=sharing>
 - Next meeting is February 12 at 2:00 on Zoom
 - Governance – Sarah Holmes
 - No report
 - Community Outreach – Donna Koser and Jennifer St. John
 - The committee discussed BECA/School Readiness consolidation
 - Re-branding has been put on hold until a name was chosen and information from the state was understood around “Early Start CT”.
 - Family Fun Day has been confirmed for June 21, 2025 at BAIMS.
 - The Outreach Committee will be discussing goals using the following google doc: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Nn7htt5LPKqBjEyjd_i_MJ86GgmrijngpGy00ob7c10/edit?usp=sharing
 - The next meeting scheduled during Bristol’s school vacation has been rescheduled to April 10th at 1:00 p.m.
 - Infant and Toddler – Maegan Adams and Michelle Herens
 - The committee discussed BECA/School Readiness consolidation
 - Guest speaker Jill Mahoney from the CT Partnership for Children shared information about their diaper bank
 - Discussed upcoming events: Community Baby Shower in April, Maternal Mental Health Month in May, and Breastfeeding Awareness Week in August
 - The Infant & Toddler Committee will be discussing goals using the google doc:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ARuVlppsF5-Amb75Nt4WbWgn4NpDWoTukg1WnSX_xec/edit?usp=sharing

- Next meeting is March 18 at 1:30 on Zoom
- Transition to Kindergarten – Courtney Sugarman
 - Donna updated committee about BECA/School Readiness consolidation
 - Discussion about transition to kindergarten activities for January and February, including Early Notification, Transition Meetings for students with IEPs, and the family education process about kindergarten readiness
 - Discussion about the Kindergarten age change and possible waiver process
 - Brainstormed about how to distribute Early Learning Kits
 - Spring Dine & Discuss will be April 1, 2025
 - The Transition to K Committee will be discussing goals using the google doc: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_sCX1toYilbpkleug_6i0QGOOfqFwZ7E8E335AQNWUc/edit?usp=sharing
 - Next meeting is February 10 at 3:45 on Zoom
- School Readiness Liaison Report – Donna Osuch
 - Office of Early Childhood (OEC) and other Updates
 - The Governor is presenting his budget at noon, and we understand that he and legislative leadership intend to make early childhood education a priority through his “preschool expansion proposal”:
 - Address issues of access, teacher shortage and fragmented system
 - Enrollment system with a search portal and navigation support
 - Free pre-K for families earning up to \$100,000/year and \$20 max for up to \$150,000/year
 - Creates 20,000 new and extended day preschool spaces by 2032 and lowers cost for families currently enrolled in 19,000 spaces by 2028
 - OEC drafted guiding principles
 - Paid for with dedicated funding outside of fiscal guardrails by moving a portion of the projected surplus outside of the budget and into a trust fund
 - Lots of legislation is being proposed – here are a few relevant bills:
 - An Act Concerning the Capitalization of the Early Childhood Care and Education Fund –
https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill_num=HB5003&which_year=2025
 - An Act Concerning Resources and Supports for Infants, Toddlers and Disconnected Youths –
https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/CGABillStatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill_num=SB6
 - An Act Delaying Implementation of Early Start CT –
https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/CGABillStatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill_num=HB5379
 - An Act Requiring OEC to Study Availability of Child Care and Develop a Plan to Address Infant Toddler Needs for Low-Income Families –
https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&which_year=2025&bill_num=6840

- ECE Bill Tracking:
 - <https://www.quorum.us/spreadsheet/external/AQVnEtHUueWgyYWCtnYe/>
 - Current School Readiness programs have been approved for funding for next year, but OEC has not released the second round of Request for Applications yet, and they are getting further behind in their process
 - There are questions about federal programs and funding – School Readiness and Child Day Care are primarily state-funded; Care4Kids, WIC and the majority of Head Start are federally funded
 - The state is hosting Special Education Listening sessions (see attached)
 - Local Updates
 - Continue to brainstorm combining BECA and SR (job description for new position)
 - Will conduct strategic planning process with full group, including committees
 - Donna will present the School Readiness budget for \$50,000 (City portion) and \$200,000 (State portion) to Comptroller's Office this Friday
 - Bristol Edition wants us to have a regular column, and checking with City Hall
- **Quality Enhancement Report:**
 - The third quarter funds for Quality Enhancement were drawn down and received by the City
- **Monitoring Visits Report**
 - In January,
 - Edgewood Pre-Kindergarten Academy (EPKA) filled 159/164 (97%) part day/part year spaces
 - Bristol Child Development Center (BCDC) had 128/129 (99%) full day/full year spaces filled and 56/56 CDC infant/toddler spaces filled; are full now
 - Imagine Nation, A Museum Early Learning Center (INMELC) had 119/119 full day/full year Pre-K spaces and 8/8 infant/toddler spaces filled
- **Resignations:** none
- **Appointments:** none
- **Old Business:** none
- **New Business:** none
- **Community Sharing:**
 - Donna K. shared that Imagine Nation asked her to share information on an upcoming Bowling event that was recently shared on Making Bristol Beter's Facebook page
 - Main Street Community Foundation has 3 grant cycles open now, including scholarships available for those who wish to attend or return to college. Please reach out to Kate Kerchaert or Susan Sadecki to ensure that your project or pilot aligns with the foundation's grant making goals. www.mainstreetfoundation.org
 - Val T. said that the Library is open Sundays with story time available every day. She also announced her retirement in August 2025.
 - Jennifer announced there are a few spots available for Circle of Security, including free child care and dinner

- **Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 12:37 PM.

Next regular meeting date: March 5, 2025 on Zoom

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Osuch
School Readiness Liaison

UNAPPROVED

Program Quality
Wednesday, February 12, 2025

Present: Maegan Adams, Renee Dailey, Michelle Fangiullo, Donna Osuch, Courtney Sugarman, Pam Testa

Absent: Sarah Ethier, Laurie Nadeau, Val Pelletier, Cindy Rogers

Welcome:

- Thank you for volunteering to co-chair the committee with Michelle, Renee!

Impact of temporary closing of Edgewood:

- Courtney provided an update – Edgewood is closed for an undetermined amount of time to address the roof
- Staff and students will be in session during April vacation and through June 30
- Students will be back in session at a location TBD by March 3, hopefully
- Itinerant services will be provided starting tomorrow
- Staff will work 3 days during the next few weeks for PPT meetings, and evaluations will be held

Staffing and enrollment update:

- **Staffing:**
 - BCDC looking for staff, but no immediate openings
 - INMELC waiting for report to come in for an asst. teacher
- **Enrollment:**
 - BOE has 5 openings with their additional 15 spots
 - BCDC is full at Burlington Ave and West St
 - INMELC is full
- **BristolWORKS!:** ask Kim how many in new cohort, and schedule a meeting in March

OEC Updates:

- **Preschool Expansion Proposal** – Donna shared the OEC presentation
- **RFA update:**
 - **First round approvals** – are finally done
 - **Second round** – still not announced
 - **NEW increased funding for programs with higher utilization rates** – BCDC should receive a higher allocation for next year
- **Family Fee Replacement funding for FD/FY preschool** – remember OEC subsidizing \$80.25 family fee per child in February based on enrollment in April 2024
- **Charter Oak** – Donna shared their presentation

Local updates:

- **Time to register for Kindergarten!** Donna will ask about the missing map of home schools on BOE's website
- **Transition Summary Sheets** due March 21st
- **BECA and School Readiness Council strategic planning** – planning to apply for a grant to help us look at strategic goals and strategies
- **Program and classroom monitoring** going well
- **Expenditure Report for July 1 – December 31, 2024** due February 28th

- **Dine & Discuss** is April 29th at 5:30 PM on Zoom

Legislative updates:

- An Act Concerning the Capitalization of the Early Childhood Care and Education Fund – https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill_num=HB5003&which_year=2025
- An Act Concerning Resources and Supports for Infants, Toddlers and Disconnected Youths – https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/CGABillStatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill_num=SB6
- An Act Delaying Implementation of Early Start CT – https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/CGABillStatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill_num=HB5379
- An Act Requiring OEC to Study Availability of Child Care and Develop a Plan to Address Infant Toddler Needs for Low-Income Families – https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&which_year=2025&bill_num=6840
- ECE Bill Tracking: <https://www.quorum.us/spreadsheet/external/AQVnEtHUueWqyYWCtnYe/>

Other – Donna away February 19-26

Next Meeting Date Wednesday, March 12 at 10:00 a.m. at Edgewood Pre-K Academy and Zoom

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Osuch

Health Committee Notes February 11, 2025

The regular meeting of the Health Committee was held on February 11, 2025, on Zoom Meeting Platform and called to order by Tina Tanguay.

Present: Maegan Adams, Stephanie Daniele, Donna Koser, Barbara Lozier, Donna Osuch, Leo Suazo, and Tina Tanguay

Welcome and introductions: Tina shared that she is resigning from School Readiness and this committee, and everyone wished her well. She will continue to help if she's able.

School Readiness/BECA strategic planning:

- Tina shared local health data, and issues that affect children and families that rise to the top include mental health, childhood obesity, domestic violence, overdose deaths and communicative diseases. She also shared a presentation about Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). This committee has addressed childhood obesity in the past (partnership with Shop Rite, Little Chef) and trying to address mental health (DECA, Ready4K, community programs).

New Priorities/Ideas:

- **Behavioral Health –**
 - Share “Circle of Security” being offered
 - Explore options regarding ACEs
 - Create list of resources
- **Zoom series for parents –**
 - Prerecord gardening and healthy eating (Leo) to share in March
- **Dental Screening for preschool children update –**
 - Currently BBHD is present in all elementary schools and planning to visit Edgewood 2/20
 - BBHD dental hygienists getting new space in 2026

Updates about ongoing ideas:

- **Wellness Wednesday –** This project to promote health information on social media and the website continues, and Donna Koser is requesting content from all partners. She shared a link for committee members to add items: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1HUbOc-IDFBh74UfiGyEQ1cHpUcbBlyWVOYXSZQJ10RY/edit?gid=0#gid=0>
- **Seed Project –** Leo will offer seed program at schools with FRCs and at community preschools through Road to Reading program
- **Little Read –** Donna O reaching out to Purchasing Dept. to buy books but waiting to know where office will be

Other:

- Diversity, equity and inclusion – will wait until committee structure finalized before conducting new recruitment

Next meeting is March 11, 2025 at 2:00

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Osuch

Transition to Kindergarten Committee

February 10, 2025

The regular meeting of the Transition to Kindergarten Committee was held February 10, 2025 on Zoom Meeting Platform and called to order by Christina Macioci at 3:50 PM.

Welcome and Introductions:

Attendees: Maegan Adams, Yvette Canady, Kristen Cicchetti, Michelle Fangiullo, Donna Koser, Christina Macioci, Donna Osuch, Misty Palaia, Jennifer St. John, Barbara Tedesco, Gail Zimmerman

Transition to Kindergarten Activities

- February and March activities:
 - Time to register for Kindergarten!
 - Early Notification forms are due to Donna end of February
 - Hold Transition Meetings for students with IEPs to begin in March
 - “Time to Register” media blitz
 - Educate PK4 parents on social media and website using videos made in 2023
 - Transition Summary Sheets are due March 21st
 - Invite kindergarten teachers to visit EPKA SPED students – now waiting to see when and how EPKA will reopen
 - Invite kindergarten teachers to Transition Team meetings
- Kindergarten age change – parents can request waivers similar to last year if they want their child to start kindergarten early; Kindergarten teachers shared concerns about current young students not doing well on second assessments, and Mountain View teachers will show parents who request a waiver the level of work that is expected

Dine & Discuss

- *Addressing Concerns about the Increase in Young Children with Identified Special Needs: How We Can Support Children, Families and Teachers* on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, from 5:30-7:00 PM on Zoom (note change)
- Hold panel with 3 experts: 1) School Psychologist on instructional control, 2) Speech and Language Pathologist, and 3) TBD.
- After panel discussion, hold breakout groups for teachers to share experiences and knowledge
- Invite teachers and family child care providers from community

Ready 4K

- We have 442 families enrolled

Next Meeting March 17, 2025 at 3:45 on Zoom